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Technology Center 2600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Kevin Ryan, Zionsville, PA

Ser. No.: 10/075,573

Art Unit: 2643

Filed: 02/13/2002

Examiner: William Dean, Jr.

For: Telecommunications and
Cellular Homepage Call
Screening Control Center

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In order to comply with the Discretionary Regulations 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereupon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in considering whether to allow the above application to issue as a patent.

None of the prior art discloses a reference within the ranges of Applicant's claims wherein a portion of a personal Internet home page is partitioned for use as a personal

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telephone access control device.

Document AA comprising U.S. Patent 5,745,556 issued to Y. Ronen on April 28, 1998, entitled "*Interactive and Information Data Services Telephone Billing System*", discloses a means for Internet billing wherein the user is billed as if he or she had called a 900-number. Fees are included in the user's monthly telephone bill in an amount equal to the cost of the service. In at least one embodiment, Ronen includes an encrypted key known only to the user and phone company. The encrypted key is used to authenticate the telephone number to which such 900 service is billed. Such encryption, which is well known, has some similarities to the 5-digit code added to the e-mail address of the call answering system in the proposed invention. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Ronen as in the proposed invention, and the 5-digit code is changed periodically and used to block advertising in e-mail to the user rather than to aid in billing services.

Document AB comprising U.S. Patent 5,958,016 issued to T Chang et al., on September 28, 1999, entitled "*Internet-Web Link for Access to Intelligent Network Service Control*", discloses a web page interface for controlling certain telephone services. Such control, however, is geared mainly to usage reports and billing features,

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rather than the ability to screen and control calls as in the proposed invention. Although Chang et al gives an example of a “call blocking service” at Column 21 line 27, “wherein when the service is active, calls from stations associated with the telephone numbers on the list pass directly through to the subscriber’s station,” while numbers not on the list cannot pass, such service is provided by the phone company rather than by the user as an option on the user’s home page. Likewise, the home page disclosed in Chang et al. for controlling telephone service is the phone company’s home page and not actually the user’s home page. Additionally, the web page disclosed in Chang et al. is used to access and control features of a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) or Central Office (CO) systems whereas the control afforded by the proposed invention regards services over a packet network and the Internet. The proposed invention further differs from the invention in Chang et al. in that the call routing, blocking, and controlling instructions and personal data used by the proposed invention is retained by the user and is not in the possession of the phone company. The proposed invention also differs from the invention in Chang et al. in that here a cell phone can be used to access and control the user’s telephone service.

Document AC comprising U.S. Patent 5,999,525 issued to S. Krishnaswamy et al. on December 7, 1999, entitled “*Method for Video Telephony Over a Hybrid Network*”

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discloses a system for transmitting video and audio through a combination of circuit switched and packet switched networks. A component of this system includes a personal home page by which a user may find and communicate with the home page owner. The user is given 'Guest Access' and may email or page the home page owner. The user may also schedule a video conference with the page owner. The Krishnaswamy et al. patent does not, however, disclose or suggest a means for blocking internet telephone calls or controlling one's phone communications in the same manner as the present invention.

Document AD comprising U.S. Patent 6,028,917 issued to Creamer et al. on February 22, 2000, entitled "*Access to Extended Telephone Services via the Internet*" discloses a system for delivering extended telephone services to subscribers outside of the standard PSTN network, such as providing services over the Internet. "Extended services" include caller-id, call waiting, call forwarding and the like, such services being generally the same as some of the services utilized in the proposed invention. In particular, Column 3, lines 50-52 indicates that extended services would allow users "...to become instantly aware of and screen the importance of waiting telephone calls...." In Column 11, lines 50-58, Creamer et al. contemplates an option for having facsimile calls converted into an e-mail when the receiving computer does not answer.

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In addition, Column 12, lines 26-35 states that the user must first log to the system by accessing a web page to authenticate him or herself. Creamer et al. does not, however, either disclose or suggest a call screening system in the user's home page as in the proposed invention.

Document AE comprising U.S. Patent 6,144,667 issued to Doshi et al. on November 7, 2000, entitled "*Network-Based Method and Apparatus for Initiating and Completing a Telephone Call via the Internet*" discloses a device that allows an individual to make an Internet phone call while simultaneously connected to a web site. For example, an Internet shopper who wishes to speak to an operator may call the operator via the Internet while the shopper is still connected to the web site. Doshi et al provides a gateway from the Internet to the regular PSTN network for making such calls. However, although Doshi et al provides a means for making calls via the Internet, Doshi does not disclose or suggest a means for controlling one's phone and various options via the Internet.

Document AF comprising U.S. Patent 6,175,565 issued to McKinnon et al. on January 16, 2001, entitled "*Serial Telephone Adapter*" discloses an adapter that is connected between a serial port on a computer and a standard telephone. The adapter

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allows a regular telephone to be used in making calls over a packet network including the Internet. The adapter and regular phone replaces the sound card, microphone and speakers that are normally used in a computer to make Internet phone calls. The adapter digitizes analog audio signals and packetizes the result for transfer over the Internet. The receiving computer, using a similar adapter, depacketizes the signal, and converts the signal back to an analog signal, which can be used by a regular telephone. In addition, the adapter allows the telephone to be used in the conventional way when the computer is turned off. Such reference discloses a related advance in Internet telephony devices but does not disclose or suggest a telephone control mechanism incorporated into a home page.

Document AG comprising U.S. Patent 6,176,619 issued to DeSimone on January 16, 2001, entitled "*Anonymous Voice Communications Using On-Line Controls*" discloses a system for telephonic communications over the Internet wherein the parties participating in the conversation remain anonymous. The DeSimone system is primarily intended to introduce voice communications into popular "chat room" discussions, which are anonymous but limited to text chat. The participants in the telephone conversation are kept anonymous by an intermediary call broker, who sets up the conversation. The home page control of the Applicant's invention is neither

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disclosed nor suggested.

Document AH comprising U.S. Patent 6,185,285 issued to Relyea et al. on February 6, 2001, entitled "*Method for Providing Network Users with Improved Management of a Communications Feature*" discloses a method using an Internet connection to control communications features. The Relyea method uses a call management server. The user connects to the call management server either through Dial up access or Internet access. The user then activates call features, such as three-way conferencing (illustrated). FIGS. 3 and 4 illustrate typical user interface screens that are used in managing such calls. Although Relyea illustrates a method for controlling telephone features using the Internet, the Internet is not actually used for telephonic communications as in the present inventor's arrangement. In addition, Relyea does not utilize individual user home pages in controlling such call features, and neither discloses nor suggests the present invention.

Document AI comprising U.S. Patent 6,188,683 issued to Lang et al. on February 13, 2001, entitled "*System and Method for Establishing Long Distance Voice Communications Using the Internet*" discloses a system for allowing a telephone caller to select a long distance carrier depending upon which long distance carrier can

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connect a given call at the least cost. In use, the calling party must first log onto the Internet and access a web page. Once the user is identified using a user-id and password, a long distance call request is proffered. The web system analyzes the request and selects a carrier for handling the call based on the least cost. The call is then connected and billed to the caller's previously established account. If the calling party only has one phone line, he or she must disconnect from the Internet before the call will be connected. Lang descriptively refers to such service as an "Internet Operator service" and illustrates a particular telephone service that uses the internet. Although Lang uses the Internet to locate the least expensive long distance carrier, Lang neither discloses nor suggests a means for voice communication via the Internet nor does it teach a method for screening calls.

Document AJ comprising U.S. Patent 6,215,790 issued to Voit et al. on April 10, 2001, entitled "*Automatic Called Party Locator over the Internet with Provisioning*" discloses a means for establishing an Internet telephony connection wherein the called party may be contacted at a number of different stations or addresses. Rather than using the conventional PSTN telephone network, the Voit et al system uses a public packet data network such as the Internet. As part of the system, domain names, telephone numbers, or names are translated into IP addresses using various translation

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tables. If the domain name server tries to access a device that is not "live" at the time, the server may choose a second alternative, and so on. For example, see also Column 27, lines 5-17, which illustrates simultaneous delivery of an Internet call to a domain name and a telephone number domain name. Although Voit et al illustrates the use of a phone number as a domain name, Voit et al does not illustrate or suggest the use of an Internet home page to control access to a personal telephone system.

Document AKI comprising U.S. Patent 6,226,286 issued to Danne et al. on May 1, 2001, entitled "*Apparatus and Method for Communications Between Data Network and Telecommunications Network*," discloses a communications node between networks allowing devices such as PC's and conventional telephones to communicate. The service node of the invention is comprised of a web server, personal assistant, and service node selector. The web server handles communication between a user's PC and the personal assistant. The personal assistant directs control commands to equipment in the Public Switched Telecommunications Network (PSTN). Although Danne et al discloses a means for controlling telephone communication services and uses a PC or network device, the controls therein are not incorporated into a user's personal home page. Additionally, the Danne invention does not pertain to calls placed via the Internet.

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Document AL comprising U.S. Patent 6,240,444 issued to Fin et al. on May 29, 2001, entitled "*Internet Web Page Sharing*" discloses a system and method for allowing two Internet users to view the same web or HTML page simultaneously. Here, the browser on an originating PC sends an event, such as a mouse click, window re-size, etc. to a web sharing manager or redirector. The redirector, using a Common Client Interface routes the event to a 'hook' function in the operating system on the destination PCs. Fin et al also discloses the use of an annotator, giving the device a handwriting capability so that users can write comments on the web document using a pen device. The Fin et al reference is being cited because such web page sharing ability may be somewhat similar to the present invention wherein a telephone caller and recipient can view and discuss a particular drawing or other document and can communicate using both the telephone and a mouse or other pointer. However, the use of a home page to control communications is neither described nor suggested.

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Document AL comprising U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20010036253, published on November 1, 2001 entitled "*Answering Machine Having Selective Screening of Incoming Telephone Calls*" and filed by Heinzman discloses a device that is connected between a telephone and PSTN telephone line capable of identifying and screening incoming calls. Heinzman does not, however, suggest or disclose a device or arrangement for screening Internet telephone calls, nor does Heinzman suggest the use of an Internet home page to control such system.

In accordance with M.P.E.P. sections 609 and 7.07.05(b), it is requested that

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each document cited by the Applicant herein (including those cited and discussed in Applicant's specification, if any) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing on the attached PTO Form 1449, so that each reference will appear on the face of any patent issuing from the present application, even if the Examiner does not consider such reference sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any other reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with.

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56 under the broad standard that an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent. It is not believed any reference cited specifically rises to the standard of being a prima facie invalidating reference for any of the Applicant's claims. The citation of any document should not be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or even prior art. No representation is intended, furthermore, that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 C.F.R. 1.04(a) and 1.106(b), and in

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the course of such search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

This prior art disclosure is being submitted prior to the first official substantive action in the application. Consequently, no fee should be involved in its submission. It is believed, therefore, that no fees are due for this citation of the above prior art. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge such fees against Deposit Account No. 15-0385.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles A. Wilkinson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 20,891

Dated: October 10, 2003

Law Offices of Charles A. Wilkinson
68 East Broad Street
P.O. Box 1426
Bethlehem, PA 18016-1426

Telephone: (610) 867-9700
Facsimile: (610) 868-8869